Telescope Innovations Improve Speed, Accuracy of Eye Surgery



Goddard Space Flight Center

Abbott Medical Optics Santa Ana, CA

NASA Technology

- Crafting the giant lenses for the forthcoming James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) requires a lot of grinding, polishing, and testing.
- To polish the mirrors, NASA contracted with a company that innovated technology to hasten the process and reduce costs.

Technology Transfer

- WaveFront Science, the subcontractor involved in the project, not only solved a problem for NASA but also created a device that produces detailed maps of the human eye useful for diagnosing disease.
- Abbott Medical Optics acquired WaveFront Science and used the NASA-funded technology to develop its product, which maps the eye in preparation for LASIK surgery.



Benefits

- The iDesign Advanced WaveScan Studio can map the contours of the eye in three seconds, with the resulting data transferred directly to the laser.
- iDesign also measures distorted surfaces associated with nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism, among others.

Spinoff 2012 Health and Medicine